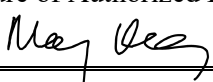


BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION

For Fiscal Year 2022

<p>Primary Applicant (Name and Address):</p> <p>Wisconsin Bell Inc. dba AT&T Wisconsin 722 North Broadway Milwaukee, WI 53202</p>	<p>Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx. Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions.</p> <p>Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: March 17, 2022 at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. Late applications will not be accepted.</p>	
<p>Contact for further information: PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov</p>		
<p>Date: December 1, 2021</p>		
<p>The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.</p>		
<p>Applicant Certification: In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.</p>		
<p>Name of Authorized Representative</p> <p>Mary McCarthy</p>	<p>Title:</p> <p>AVP Business Development</p>	<p>Phone: (210) 332-2479</p>
<p>Signature of Authorized Representative</p> <p></p>	<p>Date: 3/15/2022</p>	

SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Primary Applicant Name: Wisconsin Bell Inc. dba AT&T Wisconsin	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar): \$2,780,617.00
Federal Employer Identification No.: 39-071665	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar): \$3,398,533.00
Contact Name and Title: James Routh Sr. Product Marketing Manager – AT&T Fiber	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar): \$6,179,150.00
Telephone Number: 214-250-8121	Project Name: AT&T Chippewa Falls Area Proposal
E-mail Address(es): James.Routh@att.com	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.): FTTH / XGS-GPON
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant:	Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other): Last-mile
Grant Manager Contact Name:	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number:
<p>If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations:</p> <p>Charlie Walker – President / CEO 770 Technology Way Chippewa Falls, WI 54729 Phone: (715)723-7150 FEIN: 39-1759841</p>	
<p>Brief Project Description (2 sentences): AT&T Wisconsin proposes the expansion of FTTH XGS-PON services to select unserved and underserved parts of the Chippewa Falls area. Bringing multi-gigabit broadband to approximately 5,248 customer locations, where 4,960 are eligible for grant funding.</p>	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed: 5 Gbps	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed: 5 Gbps
Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location: 100 Mbps	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location: 100 Mbps

County or Counties served by this project: Chippewa County	Community or Communities served by this project: Chippewa Falls, WI																
List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve																	
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AT&T</td><td>DSL</td></tr> <tr> <td>Charter</td><td>Cable</td></tr> <tr> <td>HughesNet</td><td>Satellite</td></tr> <tr> <td>Viasat Inc</td><td>Satellite</td></tr> <tr> <td>VSAT Systems, LLC.</td><td>Satellite</td></tr> <tr> <td>AT&T Mobility</td><td>Wireless</td></tr> <tr> <td>T-Mobile</td><td>Wireless</td></tr> <tr> <td>Verizon</td><td>Wireless</td></tr> </table>		AT&T	DSL	Charter	Cable	HughesNet	Satellite	Viasat Inc	Satellite	VSAT Systems, LLC.	Satellite	AT&T Mobility	Wireless	T-Mobile	Wireless	Verizon	Wireless
AT&T	DSL																
Charter	Cable																
HughesNet	Satellite																
Viasat Inc	Satellite																
VSAT Systems, LLC.	Satellite																
AT&T Mobility	Wireless																
T-Mobile	Wireless																
Verizon	Wireless																
Data obtained from Commission's broadband map																	
Does proposed project serve an <u>unserved</u> area of the State, as defined in <u>Section 1.4</u> of the application instruction? (yes/no) Yes	Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward, Community or Telecommuter Forward, Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward, Community or Telecommuter Forward, Community? (yes/no) No																
For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access). Approximately 473 underserved and 5 served	For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access). Approximately 4,487 underserved and 283 served																
Of the improved business locations, how many locations are <i>unserved</i> ? Approximately 0	Of the improved residential locations, how many are <i>unserved</i> ? Using address data provided by the Commission, AT&T estimates the number of unserved locations is two (2). This is a conservative estimate given the age of the data.																
For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no) No	Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no) Yes, AT&T offers 'Access from AT&T' and participates in the federal ACP.																
Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no) Yes, AT&T participates in the ACP	Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no) Yes																
Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission's voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2021? (yes/no) No																	

Summary of Project Budget and Funding Statement

FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application Budget & Income Summary



Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

Grant Summary

Grant Applicant:	Project:
AT&T Wisconsin	Chippewa Falls

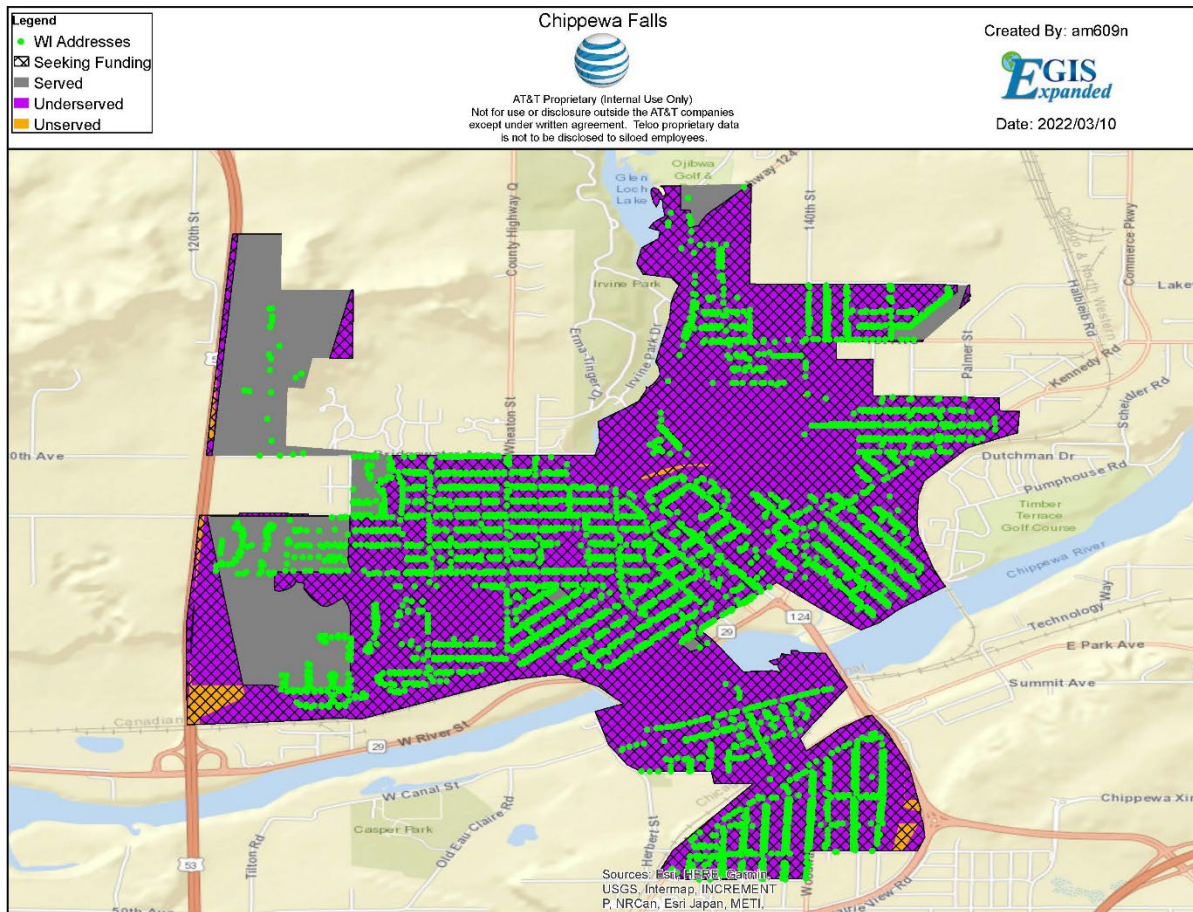
Budget

Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$ 321,216.52	\$ 392,598.10	\$ 713,814.62
2	Equipment	\$ 472,891.69	\$ 577,978.92	\$ 1,050,870.61
3	Supplies	\$ 841,372.32	\$ 1,028,344.28	\$ 1,869,716.60
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)	\$ 1,145,136.47	\$ 1,399,611.70	\$ 2,544,748.17
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
6	Travel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total:		\$ 2,780,617.00	\$ 3,398,533.00	\$ 6,179,150.00
55.0% match requested				

Pledged Contributions

#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	AT&T Wisconsin	Applicant	Cash	\$ 3,398,533.00
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Total:				\$ 3,398,533.00

Map or Maps. A clear static map(s) of the project boundaries and locations of the project area and description or key as needed.



Mandatory application requirements

An applicant must include the following information in its application to be eligible for this grant and the application must demonstrate satisfaction of indicated requirements.

Applicant identification and contact information

Wisconsin Bell Inc. dba AT&T Wisconsin
722 North Broadway
Milwaukee, WI 53202

James Routh
Sr. Product Marketing Manager – AT&T Fiber
214-250-8121
James.Routh@att.com

Description of the project

AT&T proposes the expansion of FTTH XGS-PON services to select unserved and underserved parts of the Chippewa Falls area. Bringing multi-gigabit broadband to approximately 5,248 customer locations, where 4,960 are eligible for grant funding.

A static map and description of the area of the State that will be affected by the proposed project: If the project area lies within a census block designated as served on the PSC Broadband Map, provide additional documentation to demonstrate the actual broadband service that is available in the proposed project area.

Please see static map and provided shape files noting areas that are served, as well as those that are both under and unserved.

An explanation of how the proposed project will increase broadband access.

The proposed project will provide high speed broadband access to 5,248 customer locations in Chippewa Falls (which includes 473 businesses and 4,487 residential locations that are eligible for grant funding). Out of this number, we will be providing broadband access to approximately 2 locations that are currently unserved. In addition to residents, AT&T recognizes it is important to support tourists and seasonal residents in Chippewa Falls given that Chippewa County in 2020 received \$88.1M in direct visitor spending and \$140.2M in total business sales. By providing access to multi-gigabit broadband AT&T will benefit the tourism industry by supporting seasonal residents as well as awarding travelers the opportunity and incentive to extend their stay in the area. Chippewa Falls residents and businesses will have access to packages that range from 100 Mbps symmetrical to multi-gigabit offerings.

A statement whether the proposed project is targeting the “last mile,” “middle mile,” or backbone portion of the broadband infrastructure

AT&T’s proposal is a last mile broadband infrastructure project. If approved, AT&T will expand its FTTP fiber broadband network to 5,248 customer locations in the Chippewa Falls area. AT&T intends to leverage existing local assets for sections of the network architecture.

A description of the broadband service to be provided, including estimated download and upload speeds, whether the speed is based on dedicated or shared bandwidth, and the technology that will be used. This description may be illustrated by a map or schematic diagram, as appropriate.

Speed: AT&T currently provides the following fiber speed tiers. AT&T’s proposed architecture will be scalable up to 10 Gbps symmetrical in the future. Speed is based on dedicated bandwidth to the customer location, bandwidth will then be shared among the customers connected devices.

Table 1: AT&T Fiber Speed Tiers

AT&T Speed Tier	Type	Expected Speeds (in Mbps)	
		Download	Upload
Access from AT&T*	Fiber	100 Mbps	100 Mbps
Internet 300	Fiber	300 Mbps	300 Mbps
Internet 500	Fiber	500 Mbps	500 Mbps
Internet 1000	Fiber	1 Gbps	1 Gbps
Internet 2000	Fiber	2 Gbps	2 Gbps
Internet 5000	Fiber	5 Gbps	5 Gbps

**Access from AT&T provides low-cost internet service for eligible households. Full details can be found at <https://att.com/internet/access/>. More information regarding current AT&T Internet and AT&T FiberSM offers are available at <https://att.com/internet/fiber/>*

Technology: As depicted in **Figure 1**, AT&T proposes construction of an XGSPON FTTP network. The design of the XGSPON fiber-to-the-premises network is comprised of Optical Line Terminating equipment (OLTs) located primarily in AT&T Central Offices with fiber optic cables extending into each neighborhood. The fiber optic cable from the OLT is fusion spliced at a distribution cabinet (called Primary Flexibility Points, or PFPs) located in each neighborhood. The PFP contains optical splitters and fiber connectors.

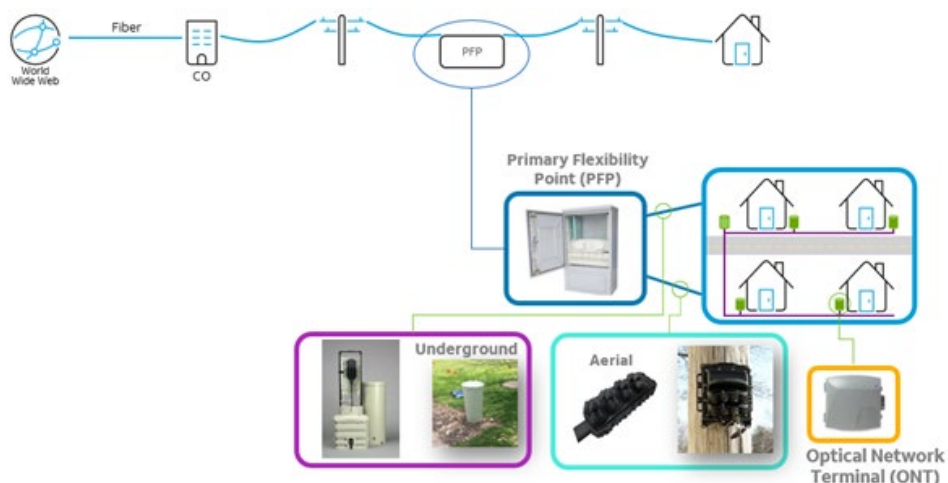


Figure 1: AT&T’s Fiber Broadband Network

Inside the PFP, the fiber cable from the Central Office is connected to one side of the optical splitters. On the other side of the optical splitter, fiber optic cables are placed in the public right-of-way, so they pass each customer location within the service area. In the neighborhood, smaller distribution cabinets (called Fiber Serving Terminals or FSTs) are placed to serve about four customer locations. These fiber optic cables are ‘engineered’ for the specific neighborhood, leading to higher quality, less cost, and faster deployment.

Connections are provided by individual fiber optic cable “drops” from the FST to each customer location when service is ordered. The “drop” cable is armored with a hardened covering to prevent damage.

At the customer’s home, the fiber optic “drop” connects to an Optical Network Termination (ONT) device on the side of the house or, more typically, at an AT&T-installed FiberJack wall plate inside the home. When the ONT is attached to the side of the house, AT&T provides a Wi-Fi router for use inside the house. With a FiberJack installation, AT&T provides a combined ONT/Wi-Fi router. This network provides the customer with a dedicated internet connection to the home. The bandwidth is not shared, but rather dedicated to the customer.

A schedule by which the applicant intends to complete the components of the proposed project. The project period is up to 24 months.

To fully meet all needs of the City, AT&T will develop a mutually acceptable workplan in conjunction with the City to determine the optimal approach. Therefore, the **Table 2** timeline is only illustrative.

Table 2: Illustrative Project Timeline

Anticipated Implementation Schedule		Month(s)
Grant Award		Zero - Start
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Execution of State Broadband Expansion Grant Agreement 		
Project Plan Development		1 through 16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local AT&T Network Planner will develop a collaborative plan to ensure a fully optimized fiber network is deployed that will provide 5,248 Chippewa Falls customer locations a high performing broadband connection 		
Detailed Design Creation & Permitting		2 through 19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local AT&T Engineering team will provide the detailed design of the fiber network from the Central office to the customer premise location. This includes following all required permit submittal processes to secure the necessary approval to place fiber facilities within the respective area 		
Cable ordering & receipt		5 through 20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local AT&T Scheduling Team will follow the detailed design provided by the AT&T engineering team to order the required fiber optic cable along with all associated material required for the respective projects. They will follow the open material orders to ensure timely receipt of material. 		
Construction Cable & Equipment Placement		6 through 23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local AT&T Construction team will coordinate the placement of the buried and/or aerial fiber cable along with all associated equipment required to provide end to end connectivity, including handholes, flowerpots, fiber access points, etc. 		
Construction Cable Splicing		9 through 24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AT&T CWA Technicians will perform all splicing activities required to provide fiber service to the Chippewa Falls residents and businesses. This includes performing fusion splices at the various fiber access points and connecting fiber tethers for distribution service 		
Final Testing and Inventory Validation		9 through 24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AT&T CWA Technicians will perform OTDR (Optical Time Domain Reflectometer) Testing to ensure connectivity throughout the fiber network, along with quality assurance, and address inventory verification. 		

Itemized Budget (all amounts should be rounded to the nearest dollar)

In addition to the Summary of Project Budget that is included as page 3, applicants should include a price list or quote for any equipment the applicant intends to purchase, including capital expenditures. The application should also indicate whether any facilities involved would be owned, rented, or leased.

Given the Broadband Expansion Grant applications are filed publicly, and AT&T vendor agreement restricts the release of cost data, AT&T is unable to provide a quote or price list for its equipment and capital expenditures at this time. Upon execution of the grant award, AT&T will work with the Commission to implement the project and will provide more detailed cost estimates at that time. All facilities involved would be fully owned by AT&T.

The application must show that the grant, if awarded, will not subsidize the expenses of a telecommunications provider or the monthly bills of telecommunications customers. For purposes of this grant program, subsidize means a contribution to the operating costs, including profit, of the telecommunications provider.

AT&T is NOT seeking funding for operational expenses, digital literacy programs, marketing, or other ongoing activities. AT&T will address any funding for these activities.

The application must show that the grant funds requested will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved areas covered by the application. Construction of broadband infrastructure may include any of the following:

- **Project planning that takes place during the performance period.**
- **Obtaining construction permits.**
- **Construction of facilities, including construction of both “middle mile” and “last mile” infrastructure.**
- **Installation and testing of the broadband service.**

AT&T is proposing to the State of Wisconsin a multi-gigabit broadband solution that would be owned, operated, and managed by AT&T including all future operation expenses. AT&T is well positioned to serve these residents and businesses of Wisconsin. AT&T is seeking \$2,780,617.00 in order to provide service to 4,960 underserved/unserved customer locations that would otherwise be unreachable with the current economics.

Should AT&T receive an award, the grant funding will be applied to cost associated with constructing the network including materials, labor, permitting cost, and other costs associated with network construction and deployment. AT&T is NOT seeking funding for subscriber bill subsidies, operational expenses, digital literacy programs, marketing, or other ongoing activities that AT&T will be engaging in. Funding for these activities will be internal.

Priority factors supporting the application

Matching funds.

AT&T will contribute matching funds of \$3,398,533.00, which is 55% of the total construction cost of \$6,179,150.00. AT&T's match will be a cash pledge that contributes towards Contractual, Consultant Fees, Equipment, Supplies, and Labor costs.

Public-private partnerships

The Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) promises to partner with AT&T to provide additional community education and outreach about the expansion of broadband access to residences and businesses within Chippewa County. The CEDC will also offer educational awareness within Chippewa County and will also work with businesses on broadband needs.

Existing broadband service.

Based on data obtained from the Commission's mapping tool, the providers shown in **Table 3** are offering broadband service in the proposed service area.

Table 3: Chippewa Falls Broadband providers

Chippewa Falls Broadband providers	Type of Service
AT&T	DSL
Charter	Cable
HughesNet	Satellite
Viasat Inc	Satellite
VSAT Systems, LLC.	Satellite
AT&T Mobility	Wireless
T-Mobile	Wireless
Verizon	Wireless

Project impact.

If awarded, AT&T FiberSM broadband will significantly impact the residents and business of Chippewa Falls. The customer's ability to utilize the internet for any purpose including work from home, school, telehealth, and entertainment is greatly enhanced when taking advantage of the ultra-fast symmetrical speeds offered by AT&T Fiber.

Expanding fiber broadband to this region of the state would not be viable without the assistance of the grant funding. Additionally, AT&T is not aware of any future plans by any other providers to serve these areas with 100Mbps+ broadband speeds.

AT&T constructs its network using distribution areas (DAs). The proposed service area was selected using eligible census block data overlayed with our DA boundaries. AT&T is only seeking funding for eligible census blocks. However, due to the incongruent nature of census blocks and DAs, AT&T will be constructing a higher number of total living units with AT&T fully covering the incremental costs.

- Total customer locations to be served 5,248
- Total unserved/underserved customer locations 4,960

AT&T is targeting a 40% subscriber penetration rate for the selected areas.

AT&T Consumer and Small Business Services: AT&T Fiber is an ultra-fast broadband technology delivered over a fiber optic connection to the customer premises. AT&T does and will provide residential and business service to all areas we propose to serve; however, for the purposes of this response pricing and information is focused on residential services. AT&T is currently registered to do business in the State of Wisconsin and has consistently provided innovative, reliable, high-quality products and services

and excellent customer care to the residents and businesses of the State. Currently no data caps or usage tiers apply for AT&T broadband service provided over fiber.

AT&T may modify its broadband offerings from time to time in response to market conditions.

As shown in **Table 4**, AT&T offers some of the most competitive pricing for symmetrical fiber service, with plans starting at just \$30 per month for qualified households.

Table 4: Residential AT&T Monthly Pricing by Speed

Package	Download Speed (Mbps)	Upload Speed (Mbps)	Monthly Cost **costs include \$5 paperless billing credit
Access from AT&T*	100 Mbps	100 Mbps	\$30
Internet 300	300 Mbps	300 Mbps	\$55
Internet 500	500 Mbps	500 Mbps	\$65
Internet 1000	1 Gbps	1 Gbps	\$80
Internet 2000	2 Gbps	2 Gbps	\$110
Internet 5000	5 Gbps	5 Gbps	\$180

*Access from AT&T provides low-cost internet service for eligible households. Full details can be found at <https://att.com/internet/access/>. More information regarding current AT&T Internet and AT&T FiberSM offers are available at <https://att.com/internet/fiber/>

AT&T offers our broadband services on a stand-alone basis or bundled with other AT&T offered services. Purchasing service on a bundled basis may provide customers with better overall experience, greater value, and billing simplicity.

Additional services available include:

- AT&T Wireless
- DIRECTV
- DIRECTV Stream
- HBO MAX
- VoIP Home phone services

Here is a screenshot of AT&T's most recent residential fiber offers:

Figure 2: AT&T's most recent residential fiber offers

The screenshot displays the AT&T Fiber website with a blue header. The header includes the AT&T Fiber logo, a '\$250' reward card graphic, the text 'Online only offer!', and a 'Check availability' button. Below the header, there are three white cards with blue accents, each representing a different fiber service tier. Each card includes a speed tier, a price per month, a 'Check availability' button, and a speedometer icon indicating the speed. The first card is for 300 Mbps Speed at \$55/month, the second is for 500 Mbps Speed at \$65/month, and the third is for Up to 1 GIG + HBO Max™ at \$80/month. The third card also includes the HBO Max logo and text indicating it is included at a \$14.95/mo. value.

Additional details may be found at: <https://www.att.com/internet/internet-services/>

Affordability: AT&T offers specially designed programs for low-income households and actively participates in government sponsored subsidy programs. These programs are tailor made to maximize the value of AT&T broadband services to aid in closing the digital divide. Thanks to 'Access from AT&T' and the Federal Affordable Connectivity Program, eligible households may receive 100 Mbps speed AT&T Fiber service for **free**. Please see the final section of this application for further details.

AT&T Business Services: Once fiber is available throughout the service area, the following business services will be available:

- **AT&T Switched Ethernet on Demand (ASEoD):** ASEoD is a transport service that transmits Ethernet traffic among multiple locations. ASEoD provides user-friendly, web-based network configuration and management and simplified contracting for most network services.
- **AT&T Virtual Private Network (VPN):** AT&T VPN Service is a network-based IP VPN solution that uses Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) to deliver high-performance, highly secure, any-to-any connectivity.
- **FirstNet:** The FirstNet mission is to deploy, operate, maintain, and improve the first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. This reliable, highly secure, interoperable, and innovative public safety communications platform will bring 21st century tools to public safety agencies and first responders, allowing them to get more information quickly and helping them to make faster and better decisions.

For our complete list of services for small business, please visit the following website:

<https://www.business.att.com/small-business.html>. For a complete list of services for enterprise business, please visit the following website: <https://www.business.att.com/>

E-rate: AT&T has participated in the E-rate program for schools and libraries since the program's inception in 1998, and we're one of the program's largest service providers. For more information about AT&T and its participation in the E-rate program, go to www.corp.att.com/erate.

Scalability: As noted above, when deploying FTTP service to a new area, AT&T must make an initial investment in Optical Line Terminating equipment located within its central offices. Once this investment is made, AT&T is able to deploy more fiber service within Chippewa Falls, and at an overall lower cost. AT&T's fiber facilities also have the capacity required to meet the demands of the growing bandwidth consumption required in the City and are scalable to meet future demands or changing technology. AT&T's fiber-to-the-premise network is based on a 10 Gbps symmetric passive optical network (XGSPON) fiber backbone. This future-proof backbone is capable of delivering speeds of 5 Gbps symmetrical in select areas and is scalable to 10 Gbps symmetrical.

Economic development: AT&T Fiber service will stimulate economic development in Chippewa Falls. Study after study confirms the financial and economic benefits highspeed broadband brings to a community. The UW Extension – St. Croix - Economic Impacts of Broadband Access and Availability explains the benefits highspeed internet will bring to communities such as Chippewa Falls. Here are just some of the benefits noted in the analysis:

- Investments in broadband infrastructure creates jobs (100,000 jobs/ \$5 billion; 498,000 jobs/ \$10 billion) (300,000 jobs for every 1% increase in BB penetration) (7% increase in bb adoption could create or save 50,748 new jobs per year in Wisconsin, \$1.86 billion in income growth)
- Fiber to the home (FTTH) raises value of single-family homes by \$5,000 - \$6,000 on a home valued at \$300K
- Helps business expand market reach and customer bases, especially small businesses and startups
- Is central to healthcare (records, access to expertise)
- Provides access to high education and continued education (distance learning)
- Enhance tourism (facilitating sales, keeping visitors connected)
- Survey of Tech Executives: 82% ranked broadband as very or somewhat important
- Enhances ability for tech related startups to emerge
- Improved response to emergencies

The Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation offers the following thoughts on the benefits of broadband in the community:

“As you know, there is a positive correlation between broadband expansion and local economic growth. The residents of the targeted area primarily work in the region that has, due to the pandemic, shifted to a work-at-home model. Those who did not have the infrastructure of broadband were put in an uncompetitive position. One thing that was made abundantly clear by the recent pandemic is the huge increase in demand for high-speed Internet within the Chippewa Valley as businesses, education, healthcare, and workers transitioned to online services. Companies such as Mason Companies, Nordson EDI, and CBS Squared have employees in the region that will greatly benefit from this project. Many of the area's businesses, including agriculture, information, finance, and health insurance companies, would also benefit greatly from AT&T's high-speed broadband fiber expansion.”

AT&T is passionate about bridging the digital divide, and our mission is to provide high speed broadband connectivity to underserved, marginalized, and rural communities so that everyone has equal access to the resources they need to thrive. Improved access to high-speed services will provide Chippewa Falls residents and businesses with the ability to navigate telework, telehealth, distance learning, and social networking, and enable greater access to education, job opportunities, medical care, and communication resources. We look forward to leveraging our experience and resources as the world's leading telecommunications company to enrich the lives of the Chippewa Falls residents and businesses.

Effect upon broadband service to adjacent areas.

The proposed project will not negatively impact broadband service in other areas, and it will not impair the ability of a broadband service provider or competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area.

Other information supporting the application

A description of applicant's history or experience constructing broadband communications facilities in the State and elsewhere.

For more than a century, Wisconsin and its citizens have relied on AT&T to deliver high quality network and communications services across the State. The strength of AT&T is our enduring innovation and global leadership in the communications industry. Nowhere is our commitment to communications more pronounced than in the State of Wisconsin, where AT&T has invested more than \$800 million in our network over the last three years. With more than 1.1 million strand miles of fiber optic cable, AT&T is the clear leader in the communications industry in Wisconsin.

In addition to our statewide infrastructure investment, AT&T invests in developing the local communities where we live and work. From 2018-2020 AT&T, donated \$2.6 million to local Wisconsin giving organizations and spent over 5,300 hours of volunteer time on community outreach activities. In Wisconsin alone we have more than 1,800 employees who are committed to connecting themselves and their neighbors to the best broadband services and infrastructure in order to provide them with greater access to educational, employment, and healthcare opportunities.

Beyond our work in the state, AT&T is recognized as a leading provider of IP-based communications services to residents, businesses and governments, and is a leading U.S. provider of wireless, high speed Internet access, local and long-distance voice services and pay-TV. AT&T markets its 100% fiber network to more than 15 million customer locations. More than 650,000 U.S. business buildings are now lit with fiber from AT&T, enabling high-speed fiber connections to more than 2.5 million U.S. business customer locations. Nationwide, more than 9.0 million business customer locations are on or within 1,000 feet of our fiber. For more details on our products and services, as well as strengths and abilities, visit www.att.com.

A description of how the proposed project will or will not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure.

The proposed network is will not duplicate any existing FTTP broadband network.

A description of an applicant's financial ability to undertake the proposed broadband construction project.

AT&T is a trusted advisor and agile thought leader for numerous clients in the federal, state, and local governments, and works to understand all aspects of our client's missions, systems, processes, operational strategy, culture, and people to help ensure the effectiveness and sustainment of our communications solutions and services. Our mission is to connect people with their world everywhere they live, work, and play — and do it better than anyone else.

For over 145 years, AT&T has advanced the way people communicate by continually integrating emerging technologies and expanding the capabilities of our worldwide network. With over 255,000 employees in over 60 countries, AT&T is the world's largest communications company by revenue. To meet the ever-increasing demand for bandwidth and next generation networking, AT&T invests over \$20 billion per year in our network.

The financial stability of your chosen vendor will directly affect their ability to provide continued enhancements to their service offering and ability to deploy services when and where you need them. AT&T is a profitable corporation and is ranked number 9 on the Fortune 500 list. AT&T's strong financial resources have allowed AT&T to make significant investments in network infrastructure and product development. We are proud to provide our customers with a strong product and service line, thanks to our focus on delivering the industry's most reliable service, most globally consistent portfolio, and the most advanced network management and security tools.

You can find additional corporate information at the following link: <http://www.att.com/investor-relations>

A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of individuals to access health care service from home, including any impact upon the costs of those services.

In the case of healthcare delivery, improved broadband access will enable residents to take advantage of a wide range of telehealth services that are often cheaper than in-person appointments. Residents of Chippewa Falls will be able to easily access more providers, and more specialist services through telehealth approaches, which range from teleneurology to teledentistry, and even include remote monitoring by medical professionals of patients with difficult or severe conditions. Overall, more access to specialist services will increase the level of care residents will be able to receive, and access to more providers will decrease wait times; additionally, the convenience of telehealth appointments will increase the number of residents seeking health care services.

Improved broadband access will also help Chippewa Falls residents receive mental health services. Currently, patients across the country are facing very long wait times to receive mental health care services, and this is no less true in Chippewa Falls, where staff at the Marshfield Clinic say that wait times are increasing as more patients are seeking care. Through access to high-speed broadband, Chippewa Falls residents will be able to receive care faster by allowing them to expand their search to more mental health care providers in Wisconsin through telehealth and teletherapy appointments. Residents will also be able to take advantage of local healthcare resources, for example, the Marshfield Clinic is now providing career-based online therapy offerings, and general telehealth appointments.

A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of students to access educational opportunities from home

Having AT&T Fiber broadband service in the home has a tremendous impact for many students and families. Our symmetrical speeds allow for the smooth operation of virtual classrooms and video streaming. Our products provide enough bandwidth to support multiple users at any level, grade school, college, and even the demands of simultaneous virtual classroom learning, work from home needs, and entertainment.

If approved, AT&T's proposal will bring multi-gigabit fiber service to roughly 3,300 students in Chippewa Falls.

In addition to providing high-speed broadband service, AT&T is committed to supporting students and bridging the digital divide in Wisconsin through community engagement, educational initiatives, workforce development, career readiness programs, and employment opportunities for underserved youth. Please see below for some of the offerings that will be available to students in Wisconsin.

Free Digital Literacy Programs: AT&T equips parents and families with free digital literacy education that is vital for preparing for the jobs of the future. With the Public Library Association, we've launched 12 digital literacy courses in a curated series to help newly connected parents and families build skills and confidence using computers and mobile devices. These courses are available online to everyone. For more visit: <https://att.digitallearn.org/>.

AT&T Learn: AT&T Learn is AT&T's external-facing site that provides online materials for job training and interview preparation. Students can learn fundamental job skills including resume writing, interviewing, active listening, customer service, and careers in technology. For more visit <https://learn.att.jobs/app/>.

AT&T Summer Learning Academy: AT&T's Summer Learning Academy (SLA) is a free online externship program that is open to all high school and college students. The academy addresses skills gaps in underserved youth and furthers our commitment to education. SLA offers robust curriculum and provides 80 hours of content for students including prep work, live speakers, self-led learning, and a corporate social responsibility project. Upon completion, participants will receive a digital certification from Credly that can be shared across social media as well as added to a student's transcript.

A description of actions taken by a city, village, town, or county in support of the grant application that have not been discussed in the context of a public-private partnership above, including but not limited to:

Letters and messages in support of the application submitted by prospective customers, local government officials, and other interested persons.

Please see included letter of support from the following individuals and organizations:

- Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation
- Northern Wisconsin State Fair Association, Inc
- Wisconsin State Senator Kathy Bernier
- Wisconsin State Representative Rob Summerfield

Any other equitable factor that the applicant desires to discuss, including one or more of the factors in Wis. Stat. § 196.03(6) that the applicant believes its project would advance.

We provide assistance to individuals of low income through the following programs:

‘Access from AT&T’: Access from AT&T is part of our \$2 billion, 3-year effort to help bridge the digital divide. For \$30 per month eligible customers will receive free installation, Wi-Fi router, no contract term commitment or deposit, and over AT&T Fiber, the ‘Access from AT&T’ speed tier is 100 Mbps symmetrical. ‘Access from AT&T’ is funded by AT&T. Full details can be found at att.com/internet/access/.

Households who participate in any of the following are eligible for the Access from AT&T:

- Supplemental Nutritional Access Program (SNAP) participant
- National School Lunch and Head Start Programs participant
- Income - Household income based on 200% or less than federal poverty guidelines (shown in the **Table 5** below)

Table 5: Household income based on 200% of federal poverty guidelines

Number of people in household	Maximum household income
1	\$25,760
2	\$34,840
3	\$43,920
4	\$53,000
5	\$62,080
6	\$71,160
7	\$80,240
8	\$89,320
For each additional person, add	\$9,080

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP): A second, and “stackable” (i.e., can be applied to ‘Access from AT&T’) affordability program is the Federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). ACP is a temporary program administered by the FCC.

AT&T participates in the FCC’s ACP program with both our wireline and wireless services. The ACP currently provides a \$30 end user subsidy to eligible households. For example, with the ACP, the eligible customer’s monthly ‘out of pocket’ cost is free for AT&T Fiber 100 Mbps symmetric service when combined with ‘Access from AT&T’.

Those on qualifying Tribal lands can save up to \$75 per month. Full details of all eligible plans from AT&T can be found at att.com/acp.

The ACP subsidy can be applied to any of the service speed tiers. The table below illustrates the impact of the ACP when all available subsidies/discounts are applied to AT&T Fiber service offerings.

Table 6: AT&T Internet Plans and Discounts

Features	Access from AT&T	AT&T Internet Plans				
	100 Mbps	300 Mbps	500 Mbps	1 Gbps	2 Gbps	5 Gbps
Symmetrical Speeds	UNL	UNL	UNL	UNL	UNL	UNL
Data Allowance	UNL	UNL	UNL	UNL	UNL	UNL
Monthly Service	\$30	\$60	\$70	\$85	\$115	\$185
Auto Pay/Paperless Bill Discount		(\$5)	(\$5)	(\$5)	(\$5)	(\$5)
Monthly Service after AP/PB Discount	(\$30)	\$55	\$65	\$80	\$110	\$180
Affordable Connectivity Program Benefits	(\$30)	(\$30)	(\$30)	(\$30)	(\$30)	(\$30)
Monthly Service after ACP Benefits	\$0	\$25	\$35	\$50	\$80	\$150

Households are eligible for the ACP if someone in the household participates in one of the following federal assistance programs:

- Has an income that is at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines; or

- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline
- Participates in Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.
- Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, or 2021-2022 school year.
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year.
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income program.



Steffany Powell Coker
Secretary to the Commission
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
North Tower - 6th Floor
Madison, Wisconsin 53705-9100

March 9, 2022

RE: Support For AT&T's Broadband Grant Application

Dear Ms. Powell Coker,

On behalf of the Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), I am writing in support of AT&T's grant applications to expand broadband within Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. There is no doubt in the importance of this project. Their proposal is to expand high-speed broadband fiber service to roughly 5,200 homes and businesses in our area. I urge strong consideration for this worthwhile project.

As you know, there is a positive correlation between broadband expansion and local economic growth. The residents of the targeted area primarily work in the region that has, due to the pandemic, shifted to a work-at-home model. Those who did not have the infrastructure of broadband were put in an uncompetitive position. One thing that was made abundantly clear by the recent pandemic is the huge increase in demand for high-speed Internet within the Chippewa Valley as businesses, education, healthcare, and workers transitioned to online services. Companies such as Mason Companies, Nordson EDI, and CBS Squared have employees in the region that will greatly benefit from this project. Many of the area's businesses, including agriculture, information, finance, and health insurance companies, would also benefit greatly from AT&T's high-speed broadband fiber expansion.

CEDC has been assisting AT&T in providing Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) Listening Sessions and workshops that focus on identifying needed broadband, such as the project area. The CEDC promises to further partner with AT&T to provide additional community education and outreach about the expansion of broadband access to residences and businesses within Chippewa County. The CEDC will also offer educational awareness within Chippewa County and will also work with businesses on broadband needs. We will continue to advocate and educate our local officials on the importance of streamlining the right-of-way approval process for broadband expansion projects and continue identifying underserved areas that need this service.

CEDC is pleased to learn of the Access from AT&T program, which in connection with the Federal Affordable Connectivity Program, will deliver high-speed Internet access to our qualified low-income households at no cost. We are supportive of AT&T's proposals, and again, we encourage you to approve their applications.

I look forward to answering your questions about our support for AT&T's project. Thank you for your work in helping small communities like Chippewa Falls be more competitive for talent and jobs.

Sincerely,

Charlie Walker
President/CEO
Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation

CC: Jim Jermain, Regional Vice President - External Affairs

STATE SENATOR KATHY BERNIER
TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



State Capitol • P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707
Office: (608) 266-7511 • Toll Free: (888) 437-9436
Sen.Bernier@legis.wi.gov • www.SenatorBernier.com

March 7, 2022

Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC)
Attention: Mr. Dennis Klaila
610 N. Whitney Way
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. Klaila,

I am writing today to express my strong support for AT&T's Broadband Expansion Grant applications. These grants will provide broadband service to five communities in northwest Wisconsin, including Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire.

Access to high-speed internet has become a necessity in a world that is becoming more and more digital. Broadband access enables people to participate in the online economy, launch a new business, pursue educational opportunities, access medical records, and contact emergency services quickly. We must ensure every Wisconsinite has the same access to reliable, high-speed broadband, including my constituents currently living in unserved or underserved areas.

That is why I support AT&T's plans to bring reliable, fast Fiber-To-The-Premise (FTTP) broadband services to communities like Chippewa Falls. This service will open many doors of opportunity to nearly 13,000 residents and businesses in hard-to-serve areas of northwest Wisconsin.

These projects will meet a real need in our communities like Chippewa Falls. As our economy and education system relies more and more on the internet, we need to ensure that unserved and underserved areas do not fall behind.

I strongly support these projects and encourage you to do the same. Thank you for your consideration of these important grant applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Bernier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathy" being more prominent.

Kathy Bernier
Wisconsin State Senate
23rd Senate District



ROB SUMMERFIELD

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 67th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

March 9, 2022

Public Service Commission
Mr. Dennis Klaila
610 North Whitney Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Mr. Klaila,

I strongly support AT&T's broadband expansion grant application to help fund their project in the City of Chippewa Falls in the 67th Assembly District.

As the representative of the 67th Assembly District, I know reliable broadband connection can greatly benefit my constituents. Reliable broadband is critical to residents' ability to work, learn, and utilize telehealth remotely. The increased broadband access this grant can provide will be a significant investment in the city's long-term prosperity and quality of life for its residents.

This project is proactive and will provide residents with all the emerging opportunities that broadband connection can bring. The grant would make sure the residents of the City of Chippewa Falls can be part of the future that broadband connection ushers in.

My constituents and I thank you for your fair and full consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Summerfield".

Rep. Rob Summerfield
67th Assembly District
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53703



225 Edward Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 547239
715.723.2861
www.nwsfa.com

March 4, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
Attn: Mr. Dennis Klaila, Program & Planning Analyst
610 N Whitney Way
PO Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Mr. Klaila,

I am writing today to support AT&T's Broadband Expansion Grant Applications for the Northwest part of Wisconsin. As you may know, the lack of access to dependable, high speed Internet service is a major roadblock to economic development in Northern Wisconsin.

The Broadband Expansion funds will enable AT&T to bring reliable multi-gigabit broadband service to our region. Once completed the results will make high speed broadband and related broadband service available to current unserved and underserved residences and businesses within the area where such service is unavailable or is prohibitively expensive. The PSC's Broadband Expansion Grant funds will enable AT&T to offer Fiber-To-The Premise (FTTP) service to nearly thirteen thousand homes and businesses in Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Hudson, River Falls, and Roberts. This FTTP will positively impact the future economic development in these areas.

Although fast, reliable, and affordable broadband was recognized as a key for economic growth and prosperity, the pandemic highlighted just how important connectivity is for our students, families, and businesses. In a time when many of our friends and neighbors rely on technology every day, high-speed Internet access has become a necessity for employers and employees.

I support AT&T's Broadband Expansion and I ask you to do the same by approving its grant application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rusty Volk, CFE
Executive Director
Northern Wisconsin State Fair Association, Inc